

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes September 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025 | 2:30-4:00pm | I01-1400 in ISC + Zoom

<https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/98891248584?pwd=sINKzIoW5hN3PYQyPTKHSma8XJsBpy.1&from=addon>

Approval of May meeting minutes (5 min)

- a. Minutes approved, 1 abstention (was not able to read)

1. Dean's report (30 min)

a. University-Level Updates

- i. Enrollment : 2300 new students, 830 MA students
 - undergraduate enrollment mostly steady
 - heavy on the in-state, lower international
 - some revenue implications
 - not too rough for CLA
 - lots of Beacon Pledge (BHCC) students
- ii. Net positive on retention—great work to departments
 - One senator asks about retention: for CLA, up by 4.9% for first-years (down by 1.2% for transfer students)
- iii. Fundraising Successes : two big gifts/endowments
 - art/art history
 - summer endowments
 - actively pursuing others

b. Please come to Fall Faculty Reception to welcome new faculty, promotions

c. Hiring in: Applying, Classics, English, PA (2), PP/PA in MGS & Sociology, Music

- i. Approval only came on June 30
- ii. Hiring was dynamic, things happened that had to be addressed
 - retirements, etc
 - have tried to spread hires as much as possible over last few years

d. Graduate Assistantships

- i. Crisis of tuition remission over summer
- ii. Dean's Office worked hard to address
- iii. Will continue to be a challenge

e. Dean's Office Hour: 2x/semester to speak with Dean about general topics (not specific/confidential issues)

f. QUESTIONS

- i. One senator asks if this is a good retention rate? YES
 - folks have been doing great work
 - buddy system in Communications; ice cream socials in Performing Arts; English & History have worked on their spaces
 - but need to do better for graduation rates (6-year rate is ~50% for undergraduates)
 - and put more effort into transfer students
- ii. One senator asks if applications for in-state students have gone up?
 - three-stage process: recruitment, yield, retention

- not entirely sure where the positive is
- Deans report to the Provost, but now, structure has changed a little, so Deans will meet with Vice Chancellor for Enrollment regularly, will ask him all these questions
- concern: is CLA being put forward as a center for excellence?
- iii. One senator asks about international students—what is the drop due to?
 - unclear if it's recruitment or administrative difficulties
 - nationwide trend
 - impacts economics in CLA, but generally fewer international students in CLA
- iv. One senator asks if Africana Studies is the only CLA department where faculty do not have offices and when this will occur?
 - renovations ongoing, so some people don't have offices, but they at least are being renovated—most other departments have to make do w/own GOF
 - part of strategic plan to attract more students to AS
 - should be done soon; hoping for 2-3 weeks

2. Moderator's report (10 min)

- a. CLA satisfaction survey and Faculty Council updates
 - i. Brief context for new members
 - ii. FC seems to have dropped the initiative
 - perhaps best move is to get the university to do the professional version
 - plan: draft motion for next FC, which Chris will introduce
 - QUESTION: Is collective bargaining an option?
 - hoping that it will come back on the table for next round
 - QUESTION: Do we know what other surveys administration sponsors?
 - for example, monitor pay-equity issues
 - unsure how funding for this works
 - please keep ears open for other examples
 - QUESTION: How did UMass Amherst get this?
 - not entirely clear, may have to do with resources
 - QUESTION: Data does not seem to be the issue; there's more than enough data; we know there are deep concerns among faculty at this university; perhaps we should also make a push to have this addressed within our college
 - QUESTION: Would you please share executive summary? What about the NTT/TT breakdown of respondents?
 - all in the report
 - QUESTION: What is the comfort level/interest in educational infographic dramatization to raise consciousness among faculty?
 - flyers? For staff/students?
 - QUESTION: What happened at FC meeting?
 - unclear; the people who brought the motion in spring 'fizzled out'
- b. Expanded caps on IS based on room size

- i. Is this problem widespread?
- ii. IS are capped at 25, Neal Bruss bringing it up w/Diann Simmons and will report back
 - one Senator reports that this happened to them as well
 - not given any reason
 - room doesn't fully explain this

3. Course approvals (10 min)

a. New courses:

- i. ANTH - 333L - Indigenous and Colonial Heritage in Popular Music
- ii. ART - 320 - Graphic Design Workshop
- iii. DANCE - 225 - Dance Composition and Choreography
- iv. ECON - 698 - Mentored Research Project
- v. ENGL - 378 - Millennial Angst: Reading Precarity in the Twenty-First Century
- vi. SOCIOLOG - 356 -Qualitative Methodology

All courses approved (1 abstention)

b. Substantial change:

- i. SOCIOLOG - 300 - Sociology of Media and Communication
- ii. SOCIOLOG - 305 – Sociology of Culture
- iii. SOCIOLOG - 311 - Inequality in Cities
- iv. SOCIOLOG - 316 - Family Violence
- v. SOCIOLOG - 331 - Activism, Protests, and Social Movements
- vi. SOCIOLOG - 333L - Sociology of Migration
- vii. SOCIOLOG - 335 - Politics in the Digital Age
- viii. SOCIOLOG - 337 - The Police in Society
- ix. SOCIOLOG - 338 - Criminal Courts
- x. SOCIOLOG - 339 - Sociology of Law
- xi. SOCIOLOG - 342L - Aging and Society
- xii. SOCIOLOG - 346 - The Self in Society: Studies of Autobiographies
- xiii. SOCIOLOG - 361 - The Nature of Offending over the Life Course
- xiv. SOCIOLOG - 362 - Juvenile Delinquency
- xv. SOCIOLOG - 363 - Punishment and Corrections
- xvi. SOCIOLOG - 364 - Internet, Society, and Cyber Crime
- xvii. SOCIOLOG - 365 - Victimology
- xviii. SOCIOLOG - 367 - Drugs and Society
- xix. SOCIOLOG - 368 - Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction
- xx. SOCIOLOG - 372 - Globalization and Social Change
- xxi. SOCIOLOG - 375L - Indian Cinema
- xxii. SOCIOLOG - 380 - Special Topics
- xxiii. SOCIOLOG - 382 - The Sociology of Gender
- xxiv. SOCIOLOG - 384 - Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care
- xxv. SOCIOLOG - 478 - Directed Study in Sociology

All courses approved (1 abstention)

4. New business (20 min)

a. None

5. Adjourn

b. Meeting adjourned unanimously